

Unshakeable Foundation ∞ Unstoppable Force

Third Annual

Women

Veterans Summit 2014

Presented by the Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs and Women Veterans of America Chapter 20









Dear Friends,

On behalf of the State of Tennessee, it is my pleasure to welcome all of you to the Third Annual Women Veterans Summit. The Volunteer State has a proud and rich tradition of military service, to include the courageous and selfless volunteer spirit of Tennessee's women veterans.

The future for Tennessee veterans is also a priority for our state to partner with the women and men who have come home and are looking for success in the next chapter of their lives in the workforce, college campuses, entrepreneurial community or retirement possibilities. We respect and recognize all who have served and the families who supported that brave and noble choice.

I hope this event will offer enlightening information, networking opportunities and a time of recognition for your service to our country and state.

Tennessee is proud of your service and grateful for the military legacy you bring to our state. Your volunteer spirit has made Tennessee an even better place to live, work and raise a family.

Again, welcome to the Third Annual Women Veterans Summit. Crissy and I send our very best wishes to you all.

Warmest regards,

Rin Harlan

Bill Haslam



Welcome from the Commissioner

Fellow Women Veterans,

Welcome to the Third Annual Women Veterans Summit 2014! I am excited to join you for this time of reconnection, information, support and networking. I enjoy our time together and how it equips all of us to continue to be the "Unshakeable Foundation" and "Unstoppable Force" in our communities. Thank you for your service and I hope you know how grateful I am to be in your presence, to learn from you, hear your stories and celebrate your victories.

There is not a day that goes by that I do not think about those who served before me and those who will serve in the years to come. Many of you paved the way for others and continue to be trailblazers in your region. I want you to know that I am grateful and very proud to continue to serve as your TDVA Commissioner.

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs estimates there are more than 52,000 Women Veterans in the State of Tennessee and I believe each of those women possess an incredible story of service and the ability to make a difference in businesses, schools, Veteran Service Organizations, politics and community organizations throughout our state.

As you reconnect with your fellow Women Veterans, I hope you also make some new friendships, networking opportunities and learn something new to equip you to continue to be a difference maker. Also, I want to thank you for your service and recognize each of you for your part in creating this country's unshakeable foundation.

The Summit is also meant to be shared with other Women Veterans. Materials will be posted on the TDVA Women Veterans page. Please remember to share what you learn with others to continue to grow the Veteran network in the Volunteer State.

I hope each one of you will benefit greatly from the guest speakers, vendors and the network of other Women Veterans with us today.

Sincerely,

Many-Bears Grinder Colonel (Retired)

May-bear Grinder



Third Annual Veterans Summit

Unshakeable Foundation ∞ Unstoppable Force

| Day 1: Saturday, April 5, 2014 | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------|-----------------|--|
| Time | | Room | Description |
| 7:00 am | | Lobby | Vendor Set-up |
| 7:30 am | 9:00 am | | Registration/Vendors/Breakfast |
| 9:00 am | 9:20 am | Junior Ballroom | Welcome: Commissioner Many-Bears Grinder |
| | | | Posting Colors: NROTC Vanderbilt |
| | | | National Anthem: MC Potts |
| | | | Pledge of Allegiance: Mary Ross |
| | | | Invocation: Chaplain Marsha Mann |
| | | | Introduction: Commissioner Grinder |
| 9:20 am | 9:27 am | Junior Ballroom | State Representative Courtney Rogers |
| 9:27 am | 10:00 am | Junior Ballroom | Center for Women Director Elisa Basnight |
| 10:00 am | 10:15 am | | Break/Vendors |
| 10:15 am | 10:45 am | Junior Ballroom | Marine Veteran Dr. Betty Moseley-Brown |
| 10:45 am | 11:15 am | Junior Ballroom | Lynne Hutton-Smith |
| 11:15 am | 12:00 pm | B Ballroom | Lunch |
| 12:00 pm | 12:15 pm | | Break/Vendors |
| 12:15pm | 12:35 pm | Junior Ballroom | Marine Veteran Sal Gonzalez |
| 12:35 pm | 12:45 pm | | Tribute to Harriett Howard |
| 12:45 pm | 1:15 pm | | Woman Veteran of the Year Award Presentation |
| 1:15 pm | 1:30 pm | | Break/Vendors |
| 1:30 pm | 2:30 pm | | Break-Out Sessions |
| | | Azalea | Alternative Therapies |
| | | Iris | Legacy and Future Leadership |
| | | Magnolia | Military Sexual Trauma/PTSD |
| 2:30 pm | 2:45 pm | | Break/Change Sessions/Vendors (last chance) |
| 2:45 pm | 3:45 pm | | Break-Out Sessions |
| | | Azalea | Alternative Therapies |
| | | Iris | Legacy and Future Leadership |
| | | Magnolia | Military Sexual Trauma/PTSD |
| 4:00 pm | | | Closing Remarks/Commissioner's Reception |
| | | | |
| | | | |





Unshakeable Foundation ∞ Unstoppable Force

Day 2: Sunday, April 6, 2014

| Time | | Room | Description |
|----------|----------|-----------------|--|
| 7:30 am | 8:00 am | | Breakfast |
| 8:00 am | 8:15 am | Junior Ballroom | Welcome: Commissioner Many-Bears Grinder |
| 8:15 am | 9:00 am | | Center for Minority Veterans Director Barbara Ward |
| 9:00 am | 9:20 am | | Break |
| 9:20 am | 11:00 am | | VA Panel of Experts |
| | | | VA Regional Office-Nashville, Veterans Service Center Manager Angela Odom |
| | | | TN Valley Healthcare System Director Juan Morales |
| | | | TN Valley Healthcare System, Women Veterans Program Manager/Nashville Amy Willis |
| | | | Vet Center GWOT Readjustment Outreach Specialist Denesse Torpoco |
| | | | TDVA Veterans Benefits Representative Bobbie Shields |
| 11:00 am | 11:45 am | | Door Prizes |
| 11:45 am | 12:00 pm | | Closing Remarks: Commissioner Grinder |



R-Goodlettsville Air Force Veteran

State Representative Courtney Rogers grew up the daughter of a United States Marine Aviator who was killed during his third tour of duty in a helicopter crash outside of Da Nang in Vietnam. Representative Rogers followed her father's footsteps into military service which included 28 years in the United States Air Force and the Tennessee Air National Guard. Rep. Rogers has been a member of the Tennessee House of Representatives representing District 45 since January 8, 2013. The wife, mother and public servant will share more about her military career and journey to Tennessee.

Elisa Basnight

Director of VA Center for Women Veterans Washington, D.C.



Elisa Basnight was appointed Director of the Department of Veterans Affairs
Center for Women Veterans in October 2013. In this role, she is the primary
advisor to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on programs and issues related to
women Veterans. Basnight graduated from the U.S. Military Academy-West Point
in 1991, making her the first African-American woman graduate from the state of
Wisconsin. As a newly commissioned military intelligence officer, she completed
Airborne School and received a Joint Chiefs of Staff appointment. She served in
the United States Army and Army Reserves. Ms. Basnight is also a graduate of
Boston-University-Brussels, Rutgers Law School-Newark and Harvard University's
Kennedy School of Government, earning a Master's Degree in Public
Administration.





Marine Veterans Associate Director of the Center for Women Veterans

Dr. Betty Moseley Brown assumed the position of Associate Director of the Center for Women Veterans on November 1, 2004. In this capacity, she advises and assists the Director of the Center for Women Veterans in planning, directing, managing, and coordinating programs and activities of the Center.

Dr. Moseley Brown's passion for Veterans began during her United States Marine Corps service from 1978 – 1992.

As Associate Director, Dr. Moseley Brown serves as the facilitator for VA's National Summit on Women Veterans' Issues--a major training and outreach quadrennial event for women Veterans, women Veterans advocates, and other federal agencies that provide services to women Veterans, promoting transparent, interagency communication on issues impacting women in the military and women Veterans. She has also been instrumental in promoting national awareness of the contributions made by women who served in the military through multiple department-wide efforts, such as VA's "Her Story" campaign and the "Faces Behind the War" DVD.

Lynne Hutton-Smith

Survivor's Story



Lynne Hutton-Smith is a British transplant to the Volunteer State with a compelling story that will forever link her life and the life of her daughter to the American heroes who saved them from execution. In 1990, Lynne and her daughter were alone in Kuwait when Iraqi soldiers invaded. Invading Iraqi troops held Lynne and her 2-year old daughter hostage for three and a half weeks in a military camp. Lynne will share the unforgettable story on how American troops saved her and her daughter from the fate of a firing squad.





Director for the Center for Minority Veterans, Washington, D.C.

Ms. Barbara Ward was appointed as the Director for the Center for Minority Veterans in August 2012. Prior to this appointment, the Governor of California appointed Ms. Ward to the position of Deputy Secretary of Women and Minority Veterans from 2007 through 2011 and as the Bureau Chief of Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education from 2005 through 2007. Ms. Ward also served as a member of the Women Veterans Advisory Committee for three years, and was co-chair of the health sub-committee.

As a native of Florida, she attended the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, School of Nursing where she obtained her Bachelor of Science Degree. In 1986, she obtained her Master's Degree in Public Administration, Health Services Management from Golden Gate University, San Francisco. She is a registered nurse with a diverse background in health care administration and state government. Ms. Ward has held several executive level management positions including Regional Director of Field Case Management with Kemper Insurance Company; Vice President of Medical Services with Combined Benefits Insurance Company; Assistant Director of Professional Services with the University of California Davis Medical Center and Quality Assurance Coordinator at Mather Air Force Base Hospital.

Ms. Ward is a Viet Nam Era Veteran who served in the United States Air Force Nurse Corp at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. She is a board member and Vice President of the Health Education Council in Sacramento, California and a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated. As a long term educator, she has been an adjunct faculty member at several universities, including Golden Gate University. Ms. Ward was recognized as the Business Woman of the Year by the lota Phi Lambda Sorority in 2010, and has received special recognition and awards from AMVETS and American Legion for her service to Veterans. She is the former Second Vice President of the National Association of State Women Veteran Coordinators.





Salvadore Gonzalez

Country Music Artist-WWP Spokesperson Marine Veteran

Sal Gonzalez was born in Los Angeles and grew up in the gang-infested streets of East L.A. His life and perspective were forever changed as he watched the Twin Towers fall on September 11, 2001. It was on that day, Sal decided to enlist in the United States Marine Corps.

On October 31, 2004, while on a mission on the streets of Ar Ramadi, Iraq, his vehicle was struck by an improved explosive device (IED). The blast would end the life of a fellow Marine and severely wounded Sal resulting in his left leg being amputated below the knee. He had to learn how to walk, run and do all the things able-bodied people could do. It was during this painful time that Sal reconnected with his love for songwriting and country music.

Wounded Warrior Project Spokesperson Sal Gonzalez has shared his story and music on military bases and college campuses to inspire others to overcome adversity and has been a shining example for other service members who are struggling with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).



Harriett Howard

Woman Veteran of the Year 2013 February 19, 1924-August 26, 2013

During the Second Annual Women Veterans Summit in April 2013, Harriett Howard was named Tennessee's Woman Veteran of the Year. Howard joined the United States Navy in 1944 and served for nearly 39 years. She retired from the Navy at the age of 60, but remained an unstoppable force as a Veteran advocate. The Chattanooga native was the first woman to receive the "Dr. Joe Nunley Award" and has also been named the



"Woman of the Year" by WAVES National Unit 94. Howard carried a shoebox everywhere she went over the course of four years and raised more than \$100,000 for the Tennessee Fisher House. In May 2006, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) National Advisory Committee selected Howard as the Female Volunteer of the Year. Sadly, Ms. Howard died on August 26, 2013, but her legacy will endure.



Breakout Classes (Choose 1 of 3 classes during 2 different sessions)

Alternative Therapies—Azalea Room

Karen Roberts, LCSW-Expressive Arts and Healing

Karen Roberts is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with an extensive history in working with programs that serve women, children and youth. She has been employed with the VA Tennessee Healthcare System for six years and is currently working as an outpatient social worker with the Charlotte Avenue Women Veteran's Center in Nashville. As much as she has served as an advocate for those whose voices are sometimes silenced, she is also a witness to the transcending power of the arts. While working with the Women's Veteran's Center she created the Expressive Arts Community Health and Healing Program, which has been well received by participants. She was the visionary and founder of a 25 year non-profit arts organization that traveled and performed throughout Middle Tennessee and the southeastern region.

Legacy and Future Leadership-Iris Room

Helen W. (Jacque) Hillman-President of Business and Professional Women of TN, Inc.

Jacque serves as president for Business and Professional Women of Tennessee Inc. and was the BPW/USA National Speak-off Top Five finalist in 2008. She is a national mentor for BPW Foundation's Joining Forces Mentoring Plus® offering personal coaching and guidance to women veterans.

Jacque graduated from Millsaps College with a degree in English, secondary education and a minor in history. She taught English for ten years in Mississippi. Graduate work was at Mississippi State University and University of Memphis. Jacque was an award-winning writer and editor at The Jackson Sun for 23 years; among other innovations, she created two new magazines, "The Sterling Awards: 20 Most Influential Women in West Tennessee" and "Jackson Life."

Military Sexual Trauma and PTSD-Magnolia Room

Barbara Schmidlapp, M.S.W., L.I.S.W is a Military Sexual Trauma Coordinator and Primary Care Clinician Social Worker currently working with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs MidSouth Healthcare Network (VISN 9). In her current role, Schmidlapp was recognized in 2012 as Provider of the Year. Schmidlapp received her Master of Social Work at the University of Kentucky, Master of Science from Xavier University, Bachelor of Science in Social Work from Ohio State University and completed the Two Year Extern Family Therapy Program at Southern Ohio Family Institute. Schmidlapp's experience also includes roles as a probation officer, therapist, social worker and Court and Children Services Liaison.



Veterans Affairs Experts Share Their Insights
Discussion, Question and Answer Format

Angela Odom was appointed as the Veterans Service Center Manager at the Nashville Regional Office on March 11, 2012. Prior to her appointment, she was an Assistant Service Center Manager in the St. Petersburg Regional Office.

In her current position, Ms. Odom is responsible for 306 full-time employees and for administering benefits to 500,000 Veterans and their families in the State of Tennessee.

Ms. Odom began her career with the Department of Veterans Affairs in 2000 as a Veterans Service Representative (VSR) in the St. Petersburg VA Regional Office.

Ms. Odom holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of South Florida. She is a 2006 graduate of the VISN 8 Competency Development for Leadership Program. She has served as a mentor in the Leadership Bay Pines program and Competency Development for Leadership Program.

Tennessee Valley Healthcare System (TVHS) Director Juan Morales was appointed to his current on January 6, 2008. Mr. Morales directs a Veteran population of approximately 375,000 in middle Tennessee, southern Kentucky, and part of northern Alabama and Georgia.

Prior to joining TVHS, the former Army combat medic performed roles as the Acting Associate Director and Associate Director of Patient/Nursing Services at the James H. Quillen VA Medical Center in Mountain Home, TN. He led the Miami, Amarillo, and Birmingham VA Medical Centers in the role as Associate Chief of Staff/Patient Care Services from 1993-2001. With a Bachelor's degree in Nursing and a Master's in Nursing Administration from the University of Puerto Rico, Morales has a progressive 26 years of VA experience.

He is the chairman of the VISN 9 Health Care Delivery Board and member of the VHA Veterans Experience Committee and National Partnership Council. He is dedicated to the highest standards of quality patient care as a member of the American College of Health Care Executives and National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives.

Amy J. Willis, LCSW is the Lead Women Veterans Program Manager at the VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System (TVHS). Willis joined TVHS in April 2013 in her current role. She is charged with comprehensive planning for women's health to improve quality of care and to expand services for Women Veterans across all programs and services at THVS. Willis holds a Master's of Science in Social Work from the University of Tennessee and obtained status as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in 2003. Prior to joining TVHS, she provided mental health psychotherapy and medical case management services in the Middle Tennessee area and later advanced into program management creating a specialized geriatric outpatient treatment team and overseeing operations of acute mental health programs including partial hospitalization and intensive outpatient services.

Denesse Torpoco is the Global War on Terrorism Readjustment Outreach Specialist for the Vet Center in Memphis, Tennessee. Torpoco assists Veterans in Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi and Missouri. Sergeant First Class Torpoco recently finished 18 years in the United States Army where she worked as a Behavioral Science Specialist and Mental Health Specialist. While deployed in Iraq, SFC Torpoco was the Non-Commissioned Officer In Charge (NCOIC) of the Mental Health Clinic in Balad.

Bobbie Shields is the Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs Women Veterans Coordinator and a Veterans Benefits Representative at the TDVA field office located in the VA Medical Center in Memphis. Shields started with TDVA in September 2012, but prior to joining the TDVA team, she served 21 years in the United States Navy and retired as a Command Master Chief.

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A LIFETIME OF COMMITMENT.

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We would like to thank the following Sponsors for their support of the Third Annual Women Veterans Summit

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DAV Chapter 28



TDVA would like to thank the following people who assisted in making the Third Annual Women Veterans Summit a success:

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Women's Health-Tennessee Valley Healthcare System (TVHS)

OEF/OIF-Tennessee Valley Healthcare System (TVHS)

Vet Center

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VA-Regional Office Nashville

Vocational Rehabilitation

Resources

Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs: www.tn.gov/veteran

Women Veterans of America Chapter 20: www.wvachapter20.org

United States Department of Veterans Affairs: www.va.gov

National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI): www.namitn.org/veterans

East Tennessee Military Affairs Council (ETMAC): www.etmac.org/html/local_resources

Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network: tspn.org/veteran-resources

Operation Stand Down Nashville, Inc.: www.osdnashville.org

Tennessee County Veterans Service Organization: www.tnvso.com/index.html

The Center for Women Veterans: www.va.gov.womenvet

Directory for National Veterans Service Organizations: www.va.gov/vso

VA Education Benefits: www.gibill.va.gov

Resources (continued)

TNVH Women's Clinic: www.tennesseevalley.va.gov/visitors/charlottewoman.asp

eBenefits: www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits-portal/ebenefits.portal

MyHealtheVet: www.myhealth.va.gov/index.html

Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Tennessee: www.tnvfw.org

American Legion Department of Tennessee: www.tennesseelegion.org

Disabled American Veterans: www.dav.org

The Department of Tennessee Marine Corps League: www.mcldepttn.org

AMVETS: www.amvets.org

WAVES National: www.womenofthewaves.com/wavesnational.index.html

American Ex Prisoners of War: www.axpow.org

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS WOMEN CLINICS IN TN:

Nashville

1919 Charlotte Avenue Suite 300 Nashville, TN 37203 1-877-873-1692

Memphis

1030 Jefferson Avenue Memphis, TN 38104 901-523-8990

Mountain Home

Judi East FNP Program Manager Women Veterans Program James H. Quillen Veterans Affairs Medical Center Mountain, Home, TN 37684 423-979-3030

Louisville-Kentucky

VA Healthcare Center, Shively 3934 North Dixie Highway Suite 210 Louisville, KY 40216 502-449-9286

Huntington-West Virginia

1540 Spring Valley Drive Huntington, WV 25704 304-429-6755 ext. 4057 1-800-827-8244 ext. 4057



DIRECTORY

Tennessee Department of

Veterans Affairs

312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue

13th Floor

Nashville, TN 37243

615-741-2931

Commissioner

Many-Bears Grinder

615-741-1959

Deputy Commissioner

Middle

Wendell Cheek

615-741-7699

Assistant Commissioner

West

Mark Breece

731-423-5615

Assistant Commissioner

East

Donald Smith

931-456-6416

Assistant Commissioner

Communications

Yvette Martinez

615-253-7770

TDVA Field Offices

West Tennessee

Dickson

250 Beasley Dr. **615-441-6224**

Dyersburg

439 West McGaughey St. **731-286-8344**

Jackson

225 Dr. M.L. King Dr., Rm 160A **731-423-5614**

Memphis

VA Medical Center

1030 Jefferson Ave., Rm CEG 22 **901-577-7673**

Ft. Campbell, KY

5668 Wickham Ave. **931-431-3784**

Claims Office 615-695-6385

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Murfreesboro

VA Medical Center, Alvin C. York

Building 7, Rm G-39 **615-225-6930**

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1310 24th Ave. South 615-873-8048

Rm G116/G118 **615-873-7950**

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540 McCallie Ave., Rm 109 423-634-7123

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580 S. Jefferson Ave., Suite A **931-526-6929**

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1609 College Park Dr. **423-587-7032**

Mountain Home

VA Medical Center

Building 69, Rm H115 423-926-1171 ext 7203

Sevierville

1124 Blanton Dr. #101 **865-429-6541**

Notes

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Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs
312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue
13th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243
(615) 741-2931
www.tn.gov/veteran



Women Veterans of America Chapter 20 P.O. Box 121884 Nashville, TN www.wvachapter20.org



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